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AFTER FURTHER CONSIDERATION IN LIGHT OF AMERICAN EXPERIENCE WITH CONVOY MONDAY, FRENCH AND BRITISH, AT MEETING OF POLITICAL ADVISERS YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, STATED THEY SAW LITTLE TO BE GAINED BY CHANGING THEIR CURRENT PRACTICES RE DOCUMENTATION OF MILITARY PERSONNEL TRAVELING AUTOBAHN. THEY WOULD PREFER CONCENTRATE PROBLEM DOCUMENTATION OF TRUCK CARGO. HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO PERMIT FURTHER TRIPARTITE APPROACH TO MARKUSHIN WHICH WOULD ALSO TAKE CARE OF AMERICAN NEEDS, AGREED RECOMMEND FOLLOWING THREE PROPOSALS, TO BE USED IN ORDER GIVEN, AS BASIS OF DISCUSSION WITH SOVIETS:

(A) AMERICAN POLITICAL ADVISER WOULD TAKE LEAD IN SUGGESTING TO MARKUSHIN THAT, AS LOGICAL CONSEQUENCE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN GENERAL HODES AND GENERAL ZAKHAROV, PROCEDURE BE INTRODUCED INVOLVING DRAFT DOCUMENT APPROVED BY USAREUR AND OFFERED UNSUCCESSFULLY BY CONVOY COMMANDER ON JUNE 23.

IF SOVIETS ACCEPT THIS AS BASIS FOR BOTH DOCUMENTATION OF MILITARY PERSONNEL AND CARGO MOVING IN MILITARY VEHICLES ON AUTOBAHN, BRITISH AND FRENCH WOULD THEN COMMENT THAT WHILE PROCEDURE WOULD REQUIRE SOME CHANGE FROM THEIR PRESENT PRACTICES, THEY COULD SEE ADVANTAGE IN ADOPTING IT FOR SAKE OF UNIFORMITY AND WOULD RECOMMEND IT FOR CONSIDERATION THEIR HIGHER AUTHORITIES. (COMMENT: BRITISH AND FRENCH ACTUALLY SEE LITTLE POSSIBILITY SOVIETS WILL AGREE THAT SUCH DOCUMENT ALL THAT REQUIRED AT CHECKPOINTS. IF, HOWEVER,

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SOVIETS SHOULD INDICATE DOCUMENT SATISFACTORY, BRITISH AND FRENCH CONCEDE THERE WOULD BE CERTAIN ADVANTAGES IN STREAMLINED OMNIBUS FORM ELIMINATING SUBMISSION OF NOMINAL ROLLS AND IDENTITY DOCUMENTS AS NOW REQUIRED).

(B) IF SOVIETS SAY DOCUMENT INADEQUATE, POLITICAL ADVISERS COULD FALL BACK UPON PROPOSAL TO CONTINUE ALONG LINES CURRENT BRITISH AND FRENCH PRACTICE INVOLVING SUBMISSION OF REGULAR MOVEMENT ORDERS COVERING COMMANDING OFFICER, TOGETHER WITH SOME FORM OF NOMINAL ROLL PERSONNEL TRAVELING UNDER HIS AUTHORITY. SEPARATE SIMPLIFIED VEHICLE MANIFEST WOULD ALSO BE PREPARED ALONG LINES DISCUSSED BETWEEN USAREUR, USCOB, BERLIN COMMAND AND USBER REPRESENTATIVES IN BERLIN SOME TWO MONTHS AGO. (IT WILL BE RECALLED THIS WOULD CONTAIN MERELY NUMBER IDENTIFICATION OF VEHICLE, LISTING OF CARGO AS MILITARY SUPPLIES AND/OR EQUIPMENT, OR EMPTY, AND DATE OF JOURNEY). FRENCH HAVE SUGGESTED SLIGHTLY MORE COMPLICATED VARIANT WHICH THEY THINK MIGHT HAVE ADDITIONAL OPTICAL APPEAL. THIS WOULD IN EFFECT AMOUNT TO ISSUING SEPARATE MOVEMENT ORDER FOR VEHICLE ITSELF, BUT DOCUMENT WOULD CONTAIN LITTLE MORE THAN VEHICLE MANIFEST OTHER THAN THAT VEHICLE ORDERED PROCEED FROM ONE POINT TO ANOTHER. INDIVIDUAL IDENTITY DOCUMENTS WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE SUBMITTED WITH FOREGOING DOCUMENTATION. BRITISH AND FRENCH WOULD BE PREPARED ACCEPT, AND IN FACT WOULD WELCOME PROCEDURE OF THIS KIND. IT WOULD REPRESENT IMPROVEMENT OVER THEIR PRESENT PRACTICE OF SUBMITTING IDENTITY DOCUMENTS.

(C) IF SOVIETS, IN ADDITION TO (B) ABOVE, CONTINUE TO INSIST ON SUBMISSION OF INDIVIDUAL IDENTITY DOCUMENTS, FINAL ALLIED POSITION MIGHT BE TO AGREE TO THIS ON CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT SOVIETS WILL NOT ATTEMPT TO MATCH IDENTITY DOCUMENTS AGAINST INDIVIDUALS. SINCE THEIR PRESENT PRACTICE INCLUDES SUBMISSION OF IDENTITY DOCUMENTS, FRENCH AND BRITISH OBVIOUSLY PREPARED ACCEPT PROCEDURE WHICH WOULD ALSO SETTLE OUTSTANDING PROBLEM OF DOCUMENTATION OF TRUCK CARGO. THEY WOULD PREFER THAT POLITICAL ADVISERS GO TO NEXT MEETING WITH MARKUSHIN AUTHORIZED TO AGREE TO THIS POSSIBILITY IF NECESSARY. IF AMERICAN POLITICAL ADVISERS INSTRUCTIONS DO NOT GO THIS FAR, THEY WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, INSIST ON AGREEMENT WITH SOVIETS THIS

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BASIS AT FIRST MEETING BUT, TO MAINTAIN TRIPARTITE UNITY, WOULD BE WILLING TAKE POSITION THAT SOVIETS DEMAND FOR SUBMISSION OF IDENTITY DOCUMENTS MUST BE REFERRED BACK TO HIGHER AUTHORITIES. THEY WOULD NOT WISH IN LONG RUN TO STICK MERELY ON POINT OF SUBMISSION IDENTITY DOCUMENTS. THEY POINT TO CURRENT TRIPARTITE PRACTICE RE DOCUMENTATION OF TROOP MOVEMENTS BY TRAIN INVOLVING SUBMISSION OF BOTH NOMINAL ROLLS AND INDIVIDUAL IDENTITY DOCUMENTS, AND ARGUE THAT THEY SEE NO DISTINCTION IN PRINCIPLE BETWEEN TWO CASES ON WHICH TO BASE AFFECTIVE ARGUMENT TO SOVIETS. THEY ARE ALSO AWARE, OF COURSE, THAT ONLY AMERICAN CONVOYS WHICH HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GET THROUGH IN LAST 18 MONTHS HAVE BEEN THOSE WHERE COMMANDER SUBMITTED INDIVIDUAL IDENTITY DOCUMENTS TO SOVIET CHECKPOINT OFFICERS.

COMMENT: SEEMS TO US THAT, WHILE WE SHOULD BEGIN BY MAKING STRONG EFFORT TO OBTAIN ACCEPTANCE OF DRAFT NEW TYPE DOCUMENT FOR TRUCK MOVEMENTS, WE SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED AT NEXT MEETING WITH MARKUSHIN AT LEAST TO BE ABLE TO PRESENT ALTERNATIVE (B). QUESTION AS TO ACCEPTABILITY OF ALTERNATIVE (C) SEEMS TO INVOLVE ESSENTIALLY JUDGMENT AS TO IMPORTANCE OF US OF CONTINUING MOVEMENT OF CONVOYS ON AUTOBAHN (SINCE SOVIETS HAVE GIVEN EVIDENCE THEY WILL CONTINUE REFUSE CLEARANCE OUR VEHICLES IF THEIR PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS NOT MET). ADDITIONAL FACTOR IS THAT, OVER LONG RUN, WE ARE UNLIKELY HAVE BRITISH OR FRENCH SUPPORT IN ADHERING TO POSITION WHICH THEY DO NOT FEEL IS CONSISTENT OR ESSENTIAL.

FRENCH POLITICAL ADVISER HAS JUST INFORMED US THAT MARKUSHIN HAS SENT HIM URGENT MESSAGE ASKING TO MEET WITH ALLIED POLITICAL ADVISERS TOMORROW. TO GIVE US SOME ADDITIONAL TIME, FRENCH REPLYING THAT POLITICAL ADVISERS UNABLE TO MEET WITH SOVIETS UNTIL MONDAY JUNE 30 WHICH IS LAST DAY BEFORE FRENCH POLITICAL ADVISER GOES ON LEAVE.

GENERAL HAMLETT AGREES WITH RECOMMENDED APPROACH CONTAINED HEREIN AND REQUESTS USAREUR AND EMBASSY CONCURRENCE AND/OR COMMENTS.

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